

FREE PERFORMANCES



Alabama Touring Artist Program

Formerly The Rural School Touring Program

2020-21 School Year



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ARTIST ROSTER

Pre-K – 12th Grade

DEBBIE BOND

Music (Root of the Blues)

BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Theatre

DANCE ALABAMA!

Dance

GARY WALDREP BAND

Bluegrass Music

*(NOTE: This artist refers touring
North Alabama - Birmingham & above)*

DEBBIE BOND

Music (Root of the Blues)



Blues guitarist, singer and songwriter Debbie Bond, has been presenting innovative blues education programs to students of all ages for over 20 years. She has been mentored by and shared her band with many of Alabama's finest traditional blues musicians, including Johnny Shines, Sam Lay, Eddie Kirkland, Willie King and more. A regular touring musician she has appeared in clubs, festival and listening rooms across the Southeast and toured Europe.

She founded the Alabama Blues Project (ABP) in 1995, a non-profit organization with a mission to preserve and promote Alabama's much neglected, but rich blues heritage. Through the ABP, Bond has presented hundreds of blues education programs throughout Alabama and beyond, impacting tens of thousands of students over the last 20 years. She has also created touring exhibitions and

undertaken unique preservation research on Alabama blues.

Bond received a MA in American Studies from the University of Alabama focusing on the blues and is a regular consultant to researchers, festival, state tourism and film makers. She resigned from directing the ABP in 2013 to focus more on her live music performance and continues to tour and partner with the ABP on school programs, educational workshops and Alabama live blues events.

DEBBIE BOND

Music (Root of the Blues)

The Alabama Blues Project's "Introduction to the Blues" program is a 45-60 minute award-winning interactive, blues educational performance. Featuring an African American blues musician and lead by blues musician and educator Debbie Bond, students will learn about the blues from its origins onwards and how the blues is the root of much contemporary American music.



The program traces the history of the blues from its African influences in slavery times, through sharecropping, the Great Migration and Harlem Renaissance, and on to the electrification of the blues and the birth of rock and roll.

The historical information is accompanied by an interactive educational performance which musically illustrates the story of the blues and its connection to Alabama history and artists from the state including W. C. Handy, Big Mama Thornton and more. Pre and post test forms and relevant Alabama content standards may be furnished upon request.

Age Group: Grades Pre-K-12

Technical Requirements: 20' x 20' performance space on any floor surface. Artist will furnish personal sound system and all equipment needed for the performance.

Booking Contact:

Debbie Bond

(205) 826-0681

Email: debbie@bluesroot.com

DANCE ALABAMA!

Dance



Dance Alabama! Creates concerts that excite students about the possibilities of dance to create community. The performances exhibit the ways that choreographers see artistic inspiration in everyday life and subsequently turn those moments into works of art. Dance Alabama! has a diverse repertoire of dance works, which include classical ballet, contemporary modern dance and hip-hop mixed with traditional jazz. The ultimate objective of our program is to expose students to a live dance performance that utilizes different styles of contemporary dance.

Dance Alabama! presents concerts that highlight work from University of Alabama student and faculty choreographers. In each performance, there is a mixture of group works, solos, duets and trios that engage students with fantastic partnering as well as a range of movement styles. Following the performances, dancers engage the student audience through dialogue and questions, other times through call and response exercises, or through leading a brief warm-up and creating a short dance with the students.

DANCE ALABAMA!

Dance

Dance Alabama! is an organization on the campus of the University of Alabama dedicated to bringing students together who share a love of dance. Under the guidance of the University of Alabama Department of Theatre & Dance faculty, Dance Alabama! is an outlet for students to participate in various community outreach and service events, make professional connections, and present choreography throughout the state of Alabama. In both Fall and Spring semesters Dance Alabama! holds open auditions for Dance Alabama! performances that occur throughout the academic year. These performances are choreographed and designed by students and faculty and include all genres of dance, ranging from classical ballet, contemporary and hip-hop dance forms. Student choreographers present their works for adjudication by the University of Alabama dance faculty. Dance Alabama! performances are theatrical venues designed to showcase choreography that is conceptually original and technically proficient.



Dance Alabama! is advised by University of Alabama dance professor, Lawrence Jackson. Lawrence received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance from the University of Southern Mississippi and a Master of Fine Arts in dance from Florida State University. Professionally, he devoted several years with the internationally acclaimed modern dance company, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble. Additionally, he has performed as a guest artist in a variety of venues; on the concert stage, PBS television programs, dinner theatres, and summer dance intensives. Jackson has choreographed over 75 original works for the concert stage.

Age Group: Grades Pre-K-12

Technical Requirements: 40' x 20' performance space on a clear, clean, level gymnasium floor or stage (no carpeted surface). Sound system capable of providing sound for performance space... (i.e. sound system/boom box etc.)

Booking Contact:

Lawrence Jackson

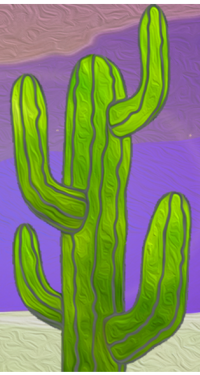
(720) 339-6140

Email: lmjackson7@ua.edu

TOUR GUIDE

THE GIRL WHO SWALLOWED A CACTUS

BY ERIC COBLE



OUTDOOR SPACE REQUIREMENTS

WHY OUTDOORS?

The best available studies tell us that outdoor performances are currently the safest way to enjoy live entertainment. In order to keep you, your students, and our team safe, we are only performing for outdoor audiences at this time.

SPACE SIZE AND NEEDS

A clear space that is at least 60ft. x 60ft. is best for a physically-distanced audience to enjoy the show. For suggested seating arrangements, please see the next page.

BCT will bring an elevated performance stage that needs a level 10 ft. x 10ft. area to set up.

A power outlet is needed within 200 ft. of where the stage will be set up for sound amplification.

If on blacktop, we recommend having students bring their chairs outside.

We recommend all audiences wear masks while watching the performance. BCT's team will wear masks at all times *except the performer during the show.*

Weather considerations on the next page.

IT'S THE DAY OF THE SHOW, Y'ALL!

BEFORE THE SHOW

BCT's Team for this tour is ONE performer and ONE stage manager.

We will contact you by phone a day before arrival to confirm details.

We'll arrive at least 60 minutes prior to the scheduled performance time and check in to confirm the set-up location. The BCT Team is equipped to set up the show without additional assistance.

THE PERFORMANCE

Show run time is approx. 50 minutes.

A pre-show speech from the performer will empower students to interact, react, and respond appropriately during the show.

AFTER THE SHOW

Each performance concludes with a short talk-back to encourage students to respond to what they've seen and provide an opportunity for questions.

A FREE study guide is available on BCT's website with activities that bring the themes of the show into other lessons.

Contact: Stephen Pierce
spierce@bct123.org
205-458-8185

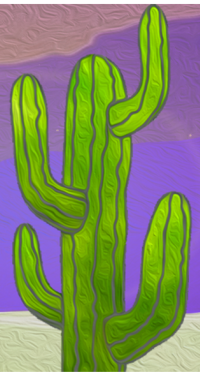
Off-hours emergency: 507-304-0756



TOUR GUIDE

THE GIRL WHO SWALLOWED A CACTUS

BY ERIC COBLE



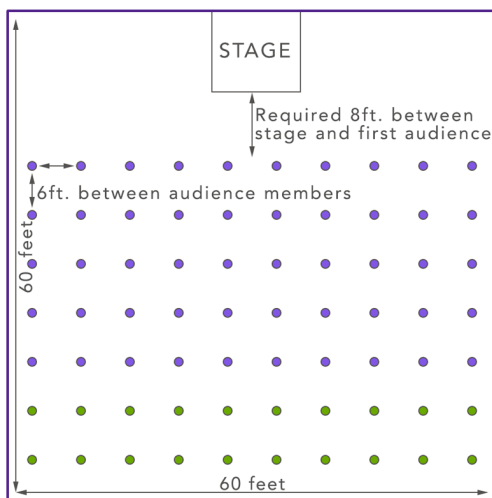
SUGGESTED SEATING

These seating charts are *suggestions* for how to physically distance your audiences. It is the final decision of each school and participating group on how to safely seat students and audience members.

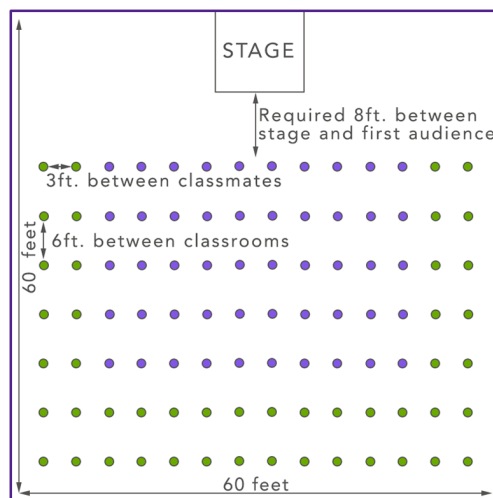
● up to 50 students

● up to 100 students

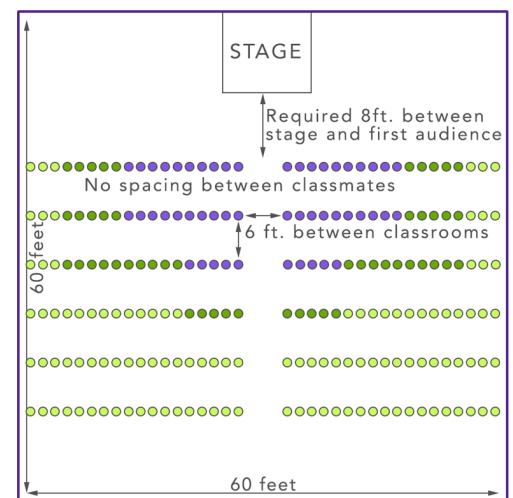
● 100+ students



Seating Chart A
6 ft. between all students
Max capacity: 70



Seating Chart B
3 ft. between classmates
6 ft. between class groups
Max capacity: 98



Seating Chart C
No space between classmates
6 ft. between class groups
Max capacity: 216

WHAT ABOUT THE WEATHER?

In the event of an adverse weather forecast, we'll follow this protocol:

- (1) The day before your performance, we'll discuss any pending weather issues during the check-in phone call and arrange a confirmation/cancellation time for the next day.
- (2) The morning of the performance we'll check the latest forecast and make a final determination at the pre-arranged time.
- (3) In the event of weather-related cancellation, our first goal will be to reschedule you for another available date.
- (4) We can also work with you to set up a virtual field trip of this same show, on the same date and time if preferred.



WE'D LIKE TO THANK MEDICAL PROPERTIES TRUST AND THE ALABAMA STATE COUNCIL OF THE ARTS – THEIR SUPPORT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS ACROSS ALABAMA TO SEE THIS SHOW, AND WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL!



GARY WALDREP BAND



Bluegrass Music

Gary Waldrep has given birth to some of the most original acts in music history. Gary loves the clawhammer, or rappin' style of the banjo. The secret to that style was handed down to him by an old master musician on Sand Mountain, Arthur Kirkendall. He fell in love with the high lonesome sound of Bill Monroe's vocals, and the three finger style of Earl Scruggs, and decided that playing music was his calling in life.

Gary's dedication to preserving and performing the traditional sounds of the clawhammer banjo brought him the "The Old Time Player of the Year" award by the Society of Preservation of Bluegrass Music in America two years in a row. The Alabama State Council on the Arts has deemed him Alabama's youngest Master Musician, and he has participated in their efforts to present the tradition of Alabama folk music in lives shows, radio programs, as well as teaching youth about music in Alabama's school systems. He was also featured in the documentary, "Music in their Bones", which aired on the Emmy award winning PBS TV series "Independent Lens."

Donna Townsell, Gary's aunt, plays bass and has been a vocalist with the band for 40 years. She wow's 'em on stage when she's featured on guitar with the precision style that was created by masters like Merle Travis, and Chet Atkins.

Age Group: Grades K-6 *(NOTE: This artist refers touring North Alabama - Birmingham & above)*

Technical Requirements: Speaker and 4 microphones (can manage with 3 microphones).
A 10' x 10' Performance Space

Booking Contact: The Gary Waldrep Band
1958 County Road 479
Albertville, Alabama 35951
banjoboy1936@gmail.com
www.garywaldrepband.com

GARY WALDREP BAND

Bluegrass Musician

The Gary Waldrep Band comes from the small community of Kilpatrick, nestled in the Northeastern corner of Alabama. The band's genesis came in the spring of 1998 when Gary Waldrep, formerly of the Warrior River Boys and Sound Mountain Boys, decided he wanted to present his own brand of bluegrass, country, old-time, and gospel music with the influence of the Sand Mountain regional sound he was raised on. Following in the footsteps of other home-grown area greats like Rose Maddox & the Maddox Brothers, and The Louvin Brothers, the band started out on a musical journey across the country that has helped them become one of the best known bands on the bluegrass music scene.



Their live shows are high energy, entertaining, and feature a variety of singing, and instrumental styles that offer something for everyone to enjoy. Vocally, the male & female lead, duet, trio and quartet singing allows the band to cover a broad range of traditional and original material. All the band members are seasoned, skilled musicians who pull together to form a solid instrumental unit, and Gary's versatility on the banjo, playing both three finger and lightning fast clawhammer style, rounds out the sound that has become the hallmark of the band. They've been fortunate to play host to two of the largest festivals in the South, and have hosted their own annual festival back home since 1995, Gary Waldrep's Festival on the Farm with an attendance of 2,000 music fans. Their studio recordings have showcased their talents with projects ranging from bluegrass, to all gospel, and old time claw-hammer.